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Don't forget to sign up on the reflector!!

August 2014 Edition

From the President

First I wanted to repeat what I sent out on the reflector earlier and announced at the August meeting. At our recent board meeting we decided that we should focus more on what excites/unites the members - building events and meetings - and less on what doesn't - operating events. Therefore we've decided to do two buildathons a year - in Nov and Mar - instead of just one in Feb.

This also means that we will not be participating in FYBO as a club, which was the same day as our February buildathon - there was only minimal participation anyway in FYBO. In addition this will free up members that want to work the MN QSO Party, that same day in Feb, to do so. As a Minnesota club we should honor that day and participate as much as possible for those that do like to operate. Scheduling a conflicting all-day buildathon event was not celebrating Minnesota's big day in ham radio.

So spread the word - next buildathon in November, we just have to figure out the kit(s). If you have any suggestions let

us know. We are also looking for kits that aren't just QRP/CW related if possible to add some variety. A couple of years ago we did a PSK meter.

Let me or any of the officers know if you have any questions or thoughts about this change.

Also we will be having our annual elections in December - coming up soon. The positions up for election are: Vice President, Treasurer, and At-Large member. Larry, KB0R, our current Vice President announced that he will not be seeking re-election; however, Paul, N0TYE, and Tom, WM0SS, our Treasurer and At-Large member, respectively, have said they would be glad to run again. So at a minimum we need a new VP, but all positions are open. Therefore, if you have any interest in serving the club in this way or have any questions, please let us know.

See you on Sept 6th at our next meeting. The presentation will be on "Why I QRP".

73 de chuck ka8hde

August Meeting Minutes

Chuck Stroud, KA8HDE, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. 19 were in attendance.

Old Business:

- June's meeting minutes were approved.
- The Treasurer reported that the account has not changed since last month.
- Field Day was reviewed. A good time was had by those who attended despite the inclement weather.

New Business:

- The board met the previous Saturday. Chuck, KA8HDE, reviewed the main items discussed.
- The club will have a Build-A-Thon at the November meeting.
- Move the February Build-A-Thon to March so it doesn't compete with the Minnesota QSO Party
- The group was polled to see what they might like to build in November

Show & Tell

Steve Ulrich, NW0C, brought in a Kent single lever key his XYL recently got for him along with a K1EL keyer that he just constructed. Steve reports that the K1EL keyer interfaces nicely with Ham Radio Deluxe and also works nicely as a stand alone device. Steve also brought in a Rig Blaster Advantage. He says it

sets up easily and seems to work very well. It has a built in modem.



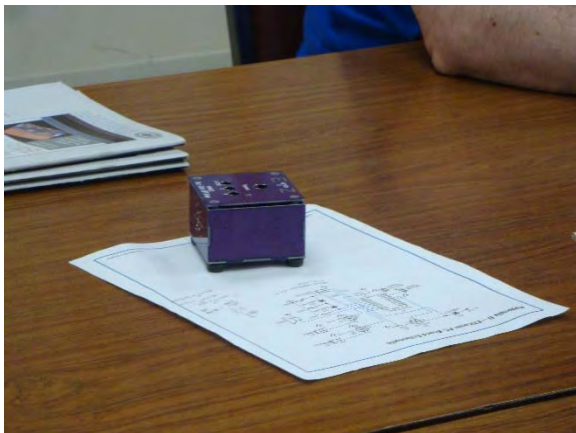
Leon Dill, W0COE, brought in power cords for anyone who might need some.



Russ Ramirez, K0WFS, brought in some 15 MHz crystals for those that might need some.



Mert Nellis, W0UFO, brought us up to date on the latest version of Craig's keyer (AA0ZZ).



John Krawczak, KJ0P, brought in an interesting article on an acoustic filter speaker which was published by the University of Houston.



Bob Liesenfeld, WB0POQ, brought in a 20 watt HF broadband amplifier under construction. Power requirements are 12V @ 4A. He also showed us a PLL he is working on.





August Presentation

Tim Burd, WD9IGX spoke on the subject of building a 2 meter J pole antenna out of 300 Ω twin lead. Tim reviewed the necessary dimensions and discussed how the antenna worked. Specifically why the twin lead must be carefully cut and hooked to the transmission line at just the right spot. Tim's presentation resulted in a lively discussion and many great questions.

Great presentation!! Thank you!!



Respectfully submitted,

Steve, NW0C

Club Officers:

President: Chuck Stroud/KA8HDE
 Vice Pres: Larry Gaalaas/KB0R
 Secretary: Steve Ulrich/NW0C
 Treasurer: Paul Bushouse/N0TYE
 At Large: Tom Kent/WM0SS

ka8hde79@gmail.com
larry@circleg.net
ulrichs@comcast.net
p-bushouse@bethel.edu
tkent1952@gmail.com